

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 and the specification are amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Ramadan in the October 4, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The disclosure and claims 1 and 3 are objected to for informalities. Withdrawal of the objections to the disclosure and to claims 1 and 3 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments set forth above.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kawai et al. (JP 2002334712 A) ("Kawai"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kawai does not support the rejection for at least the reason that Kawai does not disclose "an offset correction value determination device that determines the offset correction value for said current detector by setting the output voltage of said fuel cell to the open circuit voltage via said voltage converter" as recited in independent claim 1. Independent claims 6 and 7 include similar recitations.

Kawai provides no disclosure or suggestion of the feature of a "current offset" and fails to recognize problems arising from a "current offset." Consequently, Kawai also fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion of a technical concept of obtaining an offset value. By contrast, the present claims relate to solving problems caused by "current offset."

The Office Action alleges that Kawai discloses the offset correction value determination device recited in claim 1 because, purportedly, Kawai's "DC-DC converter can adjust the output voltage of the fuel cell to a desired voltage (which can be an open circuit

voltage)," and because, allegedly, Kawai "teaches that the target generated output of a fuel cell can be calculated without being influenced by a power consumption error for the current sensor (offset correction value)." Kawai's Abstract and paragraphs [0009] and [0011] are cited as support.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the conclusions of the Office Action. Kawai, to the extent it is understood (only a computer translation was provided), appears to relate to calculation of total power consumption in a fuel cell system. Kawai's arrangement is purported to overcome problems in the prior art by calculating a difference between an input side voltage and an output side voltage of a voltage converter, instead of by calculating power consumption by various other devices of the fuel cell system.

However, Kawai never discloses determining an offset correction value for a current detector by setting the output voltage of a fuel cell to the open circuit voltage via a voltage converter, as recited in claim 1, nor the similar features recited in independent claims 6 and 7.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 6 and 7 are allowable over Kawai. Moreover, claims 2-4 are likewise allowable over Kawai for at least the reason that they depend on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 as anticipated by Kawai is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 5 depends on claim 1 and is therefore allowable over Kawai for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 22, 2007

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